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## TAFT AND CLARK.

There does not yet seem to be any general lining up on a presidential candidate anywhere, and the field is open to all who may want to be considered among the possibilities. But it is conceded that Mr. Taft now has the lead for the republicans, and Mr. Wilson for the democrats. However, a year remains before either nomination will be made. Many things may happen in that length of time. Speaker Champ Clark has received a good deal of favorable mention the past few weeks and may figure conspicuously in the contest. It is understood that the Speaker is not averse to having his name discussed in this connection. And he will remain in the lime-light all right as this dispatch sent out from Quincy Ill., on Monday clearly indicates:

"Champ Clark, speaker of the House of Representatives, who is here, did not learn until late today of President Taft's key-note speech at Hamilton, Mass., Saturday. He said he would reply to it.

"President Taft will hear from me, for I am going after him with hammer and tongs," said Mr. Clark. "The insurgents can take care of themselves, but I will reply for the democrats."

"I said Mr. Clark is exercised over the President's speech and that the Speaker had intimated he would have something to say about the President and the tariff board in particular, of the members of which he is declared to entertain not the most favorable opinion as to their expertness of tariff matters. Mr. Clark declares President Taft was unfair and garbled facts in his Hamilton address."

"Going after him with hammer and tongs," means that the fur will begin to fly pretty soon, for Champ Clark is a heavy hitter. President Taft is already on the defensive and when an individual seeking a high position is forced into the "explaining business," nine chances in ten, he gets worsted. The President has started his campaign early but none too soon, if he expects to justify himself before the people for vetoing every tariff revision measure proposed this year—the farmers free list bill, the wool bill, the cotton, iron and steel bills and every other progressive measure offered by the two houses of congress. He will endeavor to defend these veto message, and his position is not an enviable one. The intimation is made that the democrats and insurgent republicans are to be censured for passing these measures now, rather than await the expected report of Mr. Taft's tariff commission next December, and this threat has drawn fire from Speaker Clark, who declares that he will act as spokesman for the democrats.

Concerning the Speaker's presidential boom. The Bryan-Underwood episode over the wool bill might result in an organized effort looking to the nomination of Mr. Clark. It may mean that Mr. Underwood will try to control the Southern delegations to the national convention, in which case Speaker Clark would receive the lion's share of support against Governor Wilson, or any other Bryan sympathizer. If Southern delegates should submit to the Underwood domination it would be the end of Bryanism in this part of the country, is the prediction made by the Underwood following. But just lots of folks are not yet prepared to take such a proposition seriously. However, it will be perfectly all right for Speaker Clark to go after President Taft "with hammer and tongs."

"Champ Clark was only joking when he promised to drive a team of Missouri mules up Pennsylvania avenue to the national capital when the Democrats got control of the House. But we cannot refrain from hoping that Maj. Vardaman will take his white oxen to Washington when he goes to enter the Senate. They would go well in a procession with his flowing hair."

—Chattanooga Times.

Yes, and his pretty white suit, emblematic of the Anglo-Saxon rule which the Mississippians consistently advocate, three hundred and sixty-five day in the year. Washington people need just such a shaking-up as Maj. Vardaman is capable of giving them if they would act on his suggestion.

## SPEAKER CLARK HITS BACK

A few days ago when President Taft made an attack upon Speaker Champ Clark, Majority Leader Underwood and the insurgent Republicans, in a public address, because they attempted to put tariff reform measures upon the statute books, Mr. Clark gave notice that he would reply for the democrats. The speaker went on to say that he proposed going after the President with "hammer and tongs" and that is exactly what he has done. Replying to President Taft's speech at Hamilton, Mass., on last Saturday in which the aforesaid attacks were made, Speaker Clark gives out a signed interview making good his promise to hit back. He says in part:

"The president essayed the rather large stunt of running amuck on both the democrats and the insurgent republicans in congress, singling out Mr. Chairman Underwood and myself particularly as democratic targets."

"I accept his onslaught as a badge of honor.

"The president and I are personal friends. He is an amiable gentleman, but at the time he seems to have been in a bad temper, because he sees defeat staring him in the face. I would say nothing unkind about him but I cannot and will not permit his personal strictures and his bald misstatement of historical facts to go unchallenged.

"The president's criticism of Mr. Underwood and myself, which is essentially a criticism of all democrats in the house and senate, because all democrats stood together, is absolutely uncalled for and is as ungrateful a performance as I can remember for if it had not been for the action of the democrats in the house in both the sixty-first and sixty-second congresses in lining up almost unanimously in favor of reciprocity with Canada, he would have been the most thoroughly discredited and humiliated president since the days of Andrew Johnson.

"With all the influence and patronage of his great office, he could not muster a majority of house republicans for reciprocity in either the sixty-first or the sixty-second congresses.

"The president says that he did not play politics about reciprocity but that we did play politics about the tariff. The only politics we played was to keep faith with the people. If any politics was played on reciprocity, the president himself played it—personal at that.

"He seems to think that we ought to have adjourned as soon as reciprocity was disposed of—that is, he seems to think that congress is composed of a lot of school boys to be ordered about by him as head teacher, but he was forewarned, by both Mr. Underwood and myself that if he called the extraordinary session, we would pass tariff bills and such other bills as the democrats deemed advisable.

"If we had done less than we did, we would not have been worthy of so great a portion of public confidence as we now enjoy. We made the best record of constructive statesmanship made by any congress in the same length of time in a generation and that fact is precisely what caused the president to assault the democrats in congress.

"He had said the rates of the wool schedule in the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill were too high and ought to be reduced. We reduced them.

"In the teeth of his other declarations that said rates were too high, he vetoed our wool bill, thereby going over boots and breeches to the standstills.

"The president endeavors to convey the impression that Mr. Underwood and I advocated his tariff commission. We did no such thing.

"The Congressional Record will fully and clearly prove my contention here in stated.

"Several members of the house both republicans and democrats including Mr. Underwood and myself have spent half a life time studying and debating the tariff.

"The service of some house and senate members even goes back to the McKinley bill the Springer bills the Mills bill and the Morrison bills. Then why should we wait for the verdict of the president's board of tariff non-experts?

"It will be noted, that while the president's conscience would not permit him to sign a bill revising even one schedule, he promptly signed the outrageous Payne-Aldrich-Smoot tariff bill without the counsel, advice or opinion of any tariff board whatsoever.

"It might as well be understood now as later, that if the tariff board is to be used as a pretext for delaying tariff revision downward, its days will be few, for we will cut off its supplies. This board already has cost there or four hundred thousand dollars and has not given to congress any information to aid in revising the tariff.

"The president himself is a man of large general information as well as a man of great ability, but certainly he is not enough of a tariff expert to justify him in vetoing tariff bills, which passed the house by majorities of more than two to one.

"The president implies that he refused to sign the wool bill because it was introduced and rushed through without due consideration. Let us see. The caucus of democratic members elected to the sixty-second congress met January 19 and selected the democratic members of the committee on ways and means, making Mr. Underwood chairman. They personally and with their helpers, at once began to assemble information on the wool schedule. The bill was reported to the house about the middle of April, a period of three months, on the proposition of one schedule out

of fourteen, whereas the hearing on the Payne bill with fourteen schedules began November 11 and the bill was reported to the house March 18, a period of a little over four months, devoted to 14 schedules.

"Nevertheless, and notwithstanding, the president signed the Payne-Aldrich-Smoot bill and vetoed ours. "Instead of being slapped together hastily without due consideration, the democratic wool bill was one of the most thoroughly and carefully considered tariff bills ever presented to any president for his signature."

"In view of the foregoing facts, it surely must be that the president, in his zeal to reform the broken lines of the standpatters, forgot that all men were entitled to a square deal and when he uttered this monstrous and preposterous sentence:

"The bills bear internal evidence of the fact that they rested on a basis of not tariff for revenue only, but tariff for politics only."

"Really I do not see how he could find it in his heart to utter the foregoing words for which there is no basis of fact in the universe.

"Never in the history of government, I venture to say, have important public interests been dealt with in such a light hearted way with such absolute ignorance of the effect of legislation and with such willingness of sacrifice of business interests to political exigencies.

"That is as reckless and unfair a statement as has been put into print since Gutenberg invented movable type, and is a personal reflection on the sense, honesty, integrity, bonafides and patriotism of every man, democrat or republican, who voted for these bills. As such, I resent them, not for myself alone, but for all who voted as I did.

"The president rushed in to create an issue. We picked up the glove flung into our faces and the faces of the consumers of the land. We gladly accept his gag of battle. We confidently believe that the people will endorse our cause and give us the victory for we have right and truth and justice on our side."

## AYCOCK, SECOND VANCE

Not many days ago there was a notable educational gathering down in Martin county and North Carolina's former "educational Governor" was the principal speaker. He was introduced by Mr. R. O. Everett, of Durham, who spoke of the great educational awakening during the administration of Governor Aycock and suggested that this educational wave had re-made North Carolina morally and intellectually. He went on to say that Governor Aycock and his co-laborers had not only increased the progress and prosperity of the State, but had created a state of mind, a spirit which prevailed the whole people and moves forward for their uplift.

This spirit, Mr. Everett declared to be "the Aycock spirit." A news paper reference to Governor Aycock and his speech puts it like this:

"After the introductory speech the speaker began a matchless educational address. Governor Aycock said he had done what he could, but conditions and the teachers of the State had made this stride and that he had only been a worker among them. His description of the application of education to agriculture was most apt and appropriate. The application of the principle of Contest and Competition as a means of development was very illustrated by examples from every-day life. Further, that it takes education to appreciate education, every phase of life being elevated by this principle. There was no reference to politics or anything that could be considered politically through out the entire address.

Governor Aycock was in fine trim and spoke with his old-time power and effect. It was interesting at the close of the address and throughout the day to hear the older men tell of his speech at Wilmington seventeen years ago when he debated the issue of that day with ex-Senator Marion Butler. One enthusiastic Aycock admirer said that Senator Butler spoke first and that when his speech was finished he was a Populist, and happy with it, because his mind was made up, but, said he, Governor Aycock began his speech calmly and had not gone far before Butler's speech was answered, and at the close of the Governor's speech he was back home, and that was the only time he had ever wavered in his devotion to the Democratic party. There was no doubt that "the Aycock spirit" pervaded the crowd today. One of the strongest leaders in the country said that Aycock was North Carolina's second Vance."

His numerous friends in this section of the State will be pleased to hear that their great "educational Governor" keeps right on preaching that same doctrine which endeared him to the people during his administration as Chief Executive. May his voice be heard in the land many years yet to come.

There are a number of aspirants for the judgeship to be vacated by Judge Biggs, among them being A. Wayland Cook, of Greensboro; H. A. Foushee, of Durham; A. A. Hicks, Oxford; J. A. Long, Graham; S. M. Gattis, Hillsboro. Governor Kitchen has the matter under advisement and announcement of his decision is daily expected. Mr. Cook is pleasantly remembered in Hendersonville where he has many friends, drawn to him during his connection with W. A. Smith, Esq., which continued for some years. He is a nephew of the late Mrs. J. B. Boone and Mr. J. A. Maddrey formerly of this city, now a resident of Winston-Salem.

Judge Biggs has accepted the position of law professor at Trinity College. Congratulations are due both.

## THE ISSUE NEXT YEAR

"The president's action in killing all tariff bills offered to him at this time makes two things virtually certain. One is that there will be no tariff reform during the regular session of congress next winter, and the other somewhat a corollary, is that the tariff question will be a leading, if not the leading, issue of the year's campaign."

The president has shown that he is determined to veto all tariff legislation that does not observe this new rule that the duties shall be left high enough to cover the difference in cost of production. The democrats can not, without recanting their creed and stultifying themselves, conform their tariff legislation to that rule.

Thus it is impossible for them, except in singular cases, to pass any tariff bill which the president will approve. There is virtually a deadlock as between the president and a majority of congress with respect to the tariff, and that deadlock can be broken only by the people at the polls.

During the president's special session the democrats, with a better regard for the public interests than the president has shown, yielded some of their party contentions in the hope that something could be accomplished in behalf of the people by a policy of conciliation. They can hardly be expected to be so self-abnegant on the eve of a presidential campaign, and especially since they have every reason to believe that they are on the popular side of the tariff controversy.

The decision of Speaker Clark to go after the president "with hammer and tongs" and the fact that he has already given him a "broadside" means that the democrats are not temporizing with the tariff question.

That they are determined to keep faith with the people is clearly apparent and the fight for real tariff reform is now on in dead earnest.

Now that congress has adjourned Senator Simmons is responding to calls for speech making on picnic occasions, beginning in Mecklenburg County last Thursday.

The Senator appeared in fine form and pleased his hearers immensely. He talked mighty nice about the farmers.

Bad roads are very expensive to farmers and they are beginning to realize the need of bettering their condition in this regard. There will be some hope of securing better roads when the rural population determines upon bringing things to pass.

When the people WANT good roads they will get them. They must first get the spirit.

Ex. State Senator T. T. Ballenger of Tryon, who was in Raleigh recently by attending a committee meeting of A. and M. College trustees did some talking to the News and Observer concerning conditions in Western North Carolina. We quote:

"Ex-senator Ballenger of Hoke county, who was here yesterday, says the corn crop in the West is the best ever known. He says that the West has had more summer visitors than in any other season."

The many friends of Judge George W. Ward throughout North Carolina will be delighted to learn that he has returned home. Judge Ward, while holding court in Tarboro several months ago, was suddenly stricken and was for a long time seriously ill. He spent several weeks in the Tarboro hospital and finally recovered so that he was able to go up in New York state, where he has been recuperating.

Senators Martin and Swanson, of Virginia, are having the fight of their lives for re election, but the machine may save them. A well cited political machine is a powerful actor in countests like this.

## PLAIN TALK

It will be remembered that the reason assigned by Taft for vetoing the Arizona Statehood bill was on account of the recall provision. Senator LaFollette questioned the president's sincerity in these words:

"It was not the recall of judges that Taft vetoed; it was the basic principle of popular government."

"Consider the spectacle of a President of the United States giving utterance to solemn warnings against the tyranny of a popular majority, and the dangers of 'momentary' gusts of popular passion."

"Now comes the President of the United States, himself exalted by the votes of the 'popular majority', and declare that the people cannot be trusted to rule; that up to a certain point it is well to let them play at self government, but beyond that it must submit to government from above. Taft believes in government by a select few."

"Taft suggests that he is using this

opportunity to assert in no doubtful tones the necessity for an independent and untrammelled judiciary. His message is an effort to turn the prestige and power of Presidential disapproval against a movement that is gaining remarkable headway through out the Union.

"Why? Because the special interests and a President whose administration has been consistently a special interest administration, see their end in complete self-government. That the Arizona constitution contained the recall of judges was not the reason for this pronouncement; it was the excuse. The reason was fear and distrust of the people."

This is mighty plain talk to come from a republican senator concerning the actions of a republican president. A democrat could not have said more.

## TAFT AND WILSON.

Congressman (Victor Murdock, of Kansas, publicly declares that Taft cannot be re-elected president, if the democrats nominate Governor Woodrow Wilson and Murdock is a Republican too. But not a stand-patter. The following editorial from a recent issue of the Sioux City (Iowa) Times is interesting.

"Victor Murdock, of Kansas, the pioneer progressive Republican of the House, tells The Tribune's Washington correspondent very frankly that in his judgment President Taft can not be re-elected if Woodrow Wilson is nominated by the Democrats. He classes even Iowa, where he has been delivering chautauqua addresses, as debatable ground in a contest between Taft and Wilson.

Mr. Murdock's opinion is given without bitterness. He intimates no intention on his part of refusing to support Mr. Taft should he receive the nomination. He speaks merely as a politician who knows the people of the Middle West, and gives his calm judgment of the political situation as it is, not as he would like it to be.

It is superfluous to recount in detail the reason for the latent feeling of Western hostility to the president.

These reasons are written large in the record of Taft's administration of the last two years and a half, and the president, by avowing his purpose to veto practically all the progressive legislation passed at the present session of Congress threatens to add to them. The real point is, however, that the hostility exists. That is why they are on the housetops warning their party of the danger that threatens it, and why they are convinced that the party ought to nominate some other man."

## NEW GUN TO SHOOT AT AEROPLANES

It Has Effective Range of 7 Miles—To Be Tested Shortly.

Washington, August 30—A new 6-pounder gun, equipped with specially adapted high explosive projectiles and shrapnel shells to demolish aeroplanes and balloons in battle, has been perfected by the United States Army. It can be elevated at an angle and possesses a maximum effective range of seven miles. The construction of the new rifle has just been completed at the Rock Island, Illinois, arsenal. Experiments with it will begin at the Sandy Hook proving grounds within a fortnight. The army thus is in advance of the navy toward the solution of the problem of defense against airships. The navy only a few days ago conducted its first tests with the carriage of a 1-pounder gun. The shells which this army gun will hurl into the skies will be loaded with dunnite or other high explosives and upon bursting will send forth a shower of shot in a cone-like area similar to the performances of a sky-rocket, almost certain to strike an airship if aimed with any degree of accuracy.

Other projectiles which have been designed for the new gun contain only a high explosive which, upon exploding, would wreck any airship in its vicinity.

Following in the wake of these powerful projectiles will be tracers, which will aid in accurately aiming the gun upon the course of a hostile airship. The tracers to be used in the daylight hours will be of smoke, while sparks will show the path of the shell at night.

The sight of the new gun also has been perfected, designed to meet the changing conditions of the trajectory of a projectile fired at varying angles. In the coming experiments the army will shoot at balloons and box kites, and possibly a real airship will be used to sight at great distance. The signal corps will be asked to cooperate with the ordnance department and send one of its airship now at College Park, Md., to the proving grounds.

Credit for the invention belongs to ordnance experts of the army, working under the direction of Brigadier General William Crozier, chief of ordnance.

Mrs. A. M. Fry, of Bryson City, Swain county, recently applied for and succeeded in obtaining license to practice law. She is the second woman in the State to prepare to bar.

## DEFENDS SENATOR SIMMONS

The Wilmington Star has so far expressed no preference in the contest for United States Senator, but adheres to the policy of defending any aspirant against what it conceives as unjust attacks. Early in the fray the Star intimated that it was supporting Simmons, Aycock, Kitchen and Clark and has managed to stay in the middle of the road pretty well. But the Wilmington paper just will not stand for any hitting below the belt. Recently the Robeson Advance, published at Lumberton, in referring to Senator Simmons's bill to provide for a survey of Lumber river for the purpose of securing navigation to Lumberton and beyond, made this editorial observation:

"With his bill to dredge Lumber river and put it in shape for navigation, Senator Simmons is getting what he went after—a lot of free publicity. We believe he is about as good as any of the rest of the aspirants for his seat but he never had any idea of being of any service to the towns along the Lumber river. This bill and the one to provide an Indian Normal school are both political grand stand plays and neither will ever be heard of again until the campaign opens up. Then in the list of notable achievements, of Senator Simmons you will see that he introduced a bill to free Lumberton river of its obstructions and another one in regard to the Indian school. Both of which will be like the postoffice building which Congressman Godwin secured for Lumberton."

Reproducing the above and taking as its text "Don't fight progress for politics," the Star spins out a column of "dope" which makes the Lumberton paper's thrust at the senior senator look like the vanquished "rooster" at a cock fight. The paragraph taking the part of Senator Simmons is in these words:

"Our Lumberton contemporary makes a mistake in attributing to Senator Simmons any such motive, for it is totally unlike the Senator to play politics in so small a matter as the proposed improvement of Lumber river, presumably to get the vote of so small a part of North Carolina as even the big county of Robeson. On the contrary, the Senator on several occasions could have played politics in a way to appeal to the entire state of North Carolina, but he refused to play to the galleries. In his public career, he has never made his friends shudder at the thought of looking with his popularity at ever political fortunes but the people of the State have learned to know that the Senator has clear conviction of his duty, and conscientiously states his position without regard to what the people might think of him."

Senator Simmons's bill to follow safe, but he has not offered to follow his own advice. Judgment as to what will be the result of his bill is not for the people to make. Believing that the people could be trusted to look into his case and decide for themselves as to whether he is right or wrong. When deposed that so far as the whole State is concerned, he would hardly be regarded as catering to the Robeson county vote by "pretending" to be working for navigation on Lumber river."

Those who have been observing Senator Simmons's course in congress closely will agree, fully, with the Star's conclusion.

When the democrats were endeavoring to assist in putting through that trade agreement with Canada they were mighty good fellows, but the moment they began to enact real tariff reform measures the President changed his mind.

Champ Clark is pretty apt to make things interesting for President Taft with his "hammer and tongs." To watch that scrap will be worth while. Doubtless Senator LaFollette will be heard from, in the mean time, for Speaker Clark has only promised to answer for the democrats.

That was a fearful death storm at Charleston, Savannah and elsewhere along the coast recently. A number of people met instant death and a vast amount of property was destroyed. Give us the mountains, where such hurricanes are seldom heard of.

Straw hats will soon be a thing of the past this year, in Hendersonville. The autumn leaves are happy on the trees. Visitors will find September and October the two most delightful months to spend in the mountains.

The evidence brought out in that Richmond murder trial is revolting. It was beyond question, the most atrocious crime ever committed within the confines of the "Old Dominion." Hanging is too good to the perpetrator of such a deed.

It will be tariff, tariff, tariff, for the next fifteen months. Just as well put on your studying cap if you care to learn anything worth while about the thing.

Wilmington Star says: The birth of Vardaman has been traced to Texas. There is a disposition to make Texas responsible for as much as Kansas. "Whoa, Now—What do you mean? Lots of 'Wilder' men than Vardaman in public life, some right here in North Carolina. Vardaman is an honest conscientious man; a Southerner 'bred and born'."